

Juanita S. Dilley  
Pocahontas Co.  
Chapter 4, Section 4b-3  
Battle of Bartow

Camp Bartow was at the foot of the mountains. All three on the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike. The Yeagers, Arbogasts, Slavens, Burners and Houchins who owned this section of the county were all secessionists. In fact there was hardly a Union man in the whole of Greenbank District. No where in the mountains were the Confederate States more solidly supported.

Gen. Reynolds at Whites Top had on Sept. 13, protected the left flank of the army at Elkwater, and he had kept Loring from passing so he decided to do some passing himself. He decided that he would march an army over and surround and subdue Staunton. He ordered his men to prepare four days rations each, and on the morning of Oct. 3, 1861 at one o'clock A. M. he put his forces in motion and they marched down the mountain to Durbin. He had about 5,000 troops and 6 batteries of big guns. His forces were: Howes' Battery, Loomis' Battery, Michigan Volunteer Battery, Daums' Battery, Virginia Volunteer Artillery.

24th, 25th, and 32 Ohio Regiments 7th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 17th Indiana Reg. of Infantry. Robinsons Ohio Cavalry. Greenfield Pennsylvania Cavalry, Brackman's Indiana Cavalry.

Opposed to them were the Third Arkansas, First Georgia, Twelfth Georgia, Twenty-third Virginia, Rices Battery, Schumakers Battery, and the 31st Virginian of which Captain J. C. Arbogasts Greenbank Company was made up of local people (Hope to have a complete list of this Co. soon)

The Federals got to Durbin about sun up and saw an advance guard under Col. Edward Johnson in front of them in or above the narrows which separates Frank from Durbin. They set up a cannon or two and fired at them. Johnson fell back and the Federals marched up the road and through the fields. Johnson had his horse shot and killed in this engagement. He held the column up for an hour and it was not until six cannon had opened on him and a flanking movement started to his right that he retired to the main works at Camp Bartow.



The Federal army placed two batteries in front of the Confederate breastworks. These batteries were 6 guns in the meadow about half way from the Burner house to the East Fork and 2 guns on the other side of the turnpike. The Confederate batteries were on a low hill just behind Travelers Repose, where there are embankments still plainly to be seen.

In addition Lieutenant Wooding placed a gun on the Turnpike directly in front of Travelers Repose, from which he fired 90 rounds that day point-blank at the enemy across the river bottom. The big guns kept up a steady firing from seven in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon. A rifle cannon the Confederates expected to do great damage was a disappointment for after the first few rounds the ball stuck and could not be dislodged until Sergt. Timothy H. Stamps could get there from Monterey. There was more powder burned in the big guns that day than at any other battle in the mountains. It was a great day for noise.

But all this cannon firing was meant to cover up infantry work. It will be remembered that the turnpike is an east and west road and that there is a north and south road paralleling the river. This Huntersville road comes to the turnpike at Travelers Repose.

Gen. Reynolds proceeded to send infantry against both ends of the Confederate breastworks. It looks like one could hardly call it a flanking movement for these detachments did not attempt to swing in wide circles. It was the plan to let the artillery keep everything hot along the turnpike, while his forces were to attack both ends of the Confederate position.

Jackson evidently expected a wide flung encirclement for he had sent Johnson up the river for more than a mile, and he was clear above the place that the Federals attempted to cross.

Jackson entrusted the defense of his left (down the river) to Colonel Rust and his Arkansas troops. It will be remembered that the Federals had a right large order in that they had to charge across wide open fields, ford the river and climb a steep hill to take a fortified camp.



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Rust marched down the road toward Greenbank until he had drawn away from the river and was on an elevation overlooking the river. He then marched by the end of the breastworks and took a station between the river and the breastworks, but before he could form his men, the Federal batteries commenced a rapid fire, and a regiment of infantry left the road at the Burner homestead and marched across the meadow; waded the river and climbed the hill. The Arkansas troops, however, met them at the crest of the hill and the regiment of infantry went back and marched up the hill on the other side of the road. This movement of the Federal troops moving first to the right, then to the left, puzzled the Arkansas commander. There seemed to be a discussion as to what the orders were. I was warned afterwards that there had been a misunderstanding of orders.

Col. Richardson saying, "My regiment is to attack on my right." "Not at all", said Col. Wilder, "You are to attack the enemys right". This confusion of orders marked the turning point of the battle. Now both regiments were in the same place, and it therefore permitted the whole power of the Confederate artillery to be directed to one place. The federals could not face the fire and retreated in great confusion. Both regiments went into the woods at the north of the turnpike and added to the confusion already in that quarter.

The Confederates called this one of the greatest victories of that year. The Federals called it a reconaissance in force.

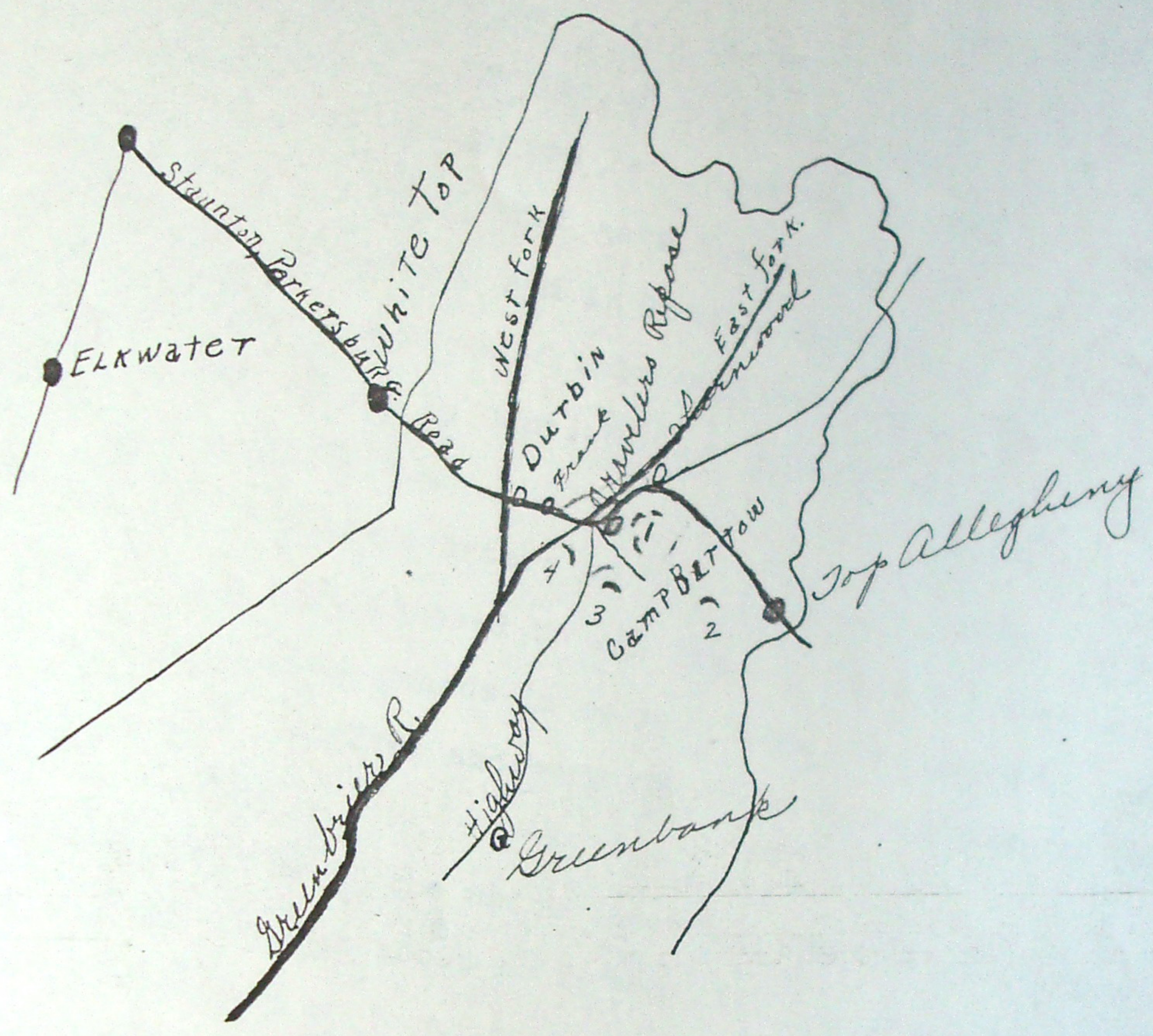
Loss in killed and wounded, Federals 43, Confederates 52, including 13 missing.

The Federals lost one stand of colors.



Stanton Co.  
Section 4 b-3  
No. 4

Granita S. Dilley  
Clover Lick, N. Va.  
Feb. 28, 1940



Field from where the  
Federals fought.

- Union fortifications
- Confederate fortifications
- Fortifications as they  
were placed on hills  
1, 2, 3, 4, facing  
the turnpike. I was  
up there one day last week,  
and Mr. Beard, who now  
owns Travelers Rest, showed  
me these fortifications, which  
are still plainly seen.

CIVIL WAR